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PING

21 OVEMBER 1955

BULGANIN-KHRUSHCHEV TRIP

- I. Bulganin and Khrushchev will leave India
 about 1 December for one week stay in
 Burma; then to Afghanistan for several days.
 - A. Reports of a subsequent stop at Cairo still unconfirmed.
 - B. They are accompanied by high level staff especially qualified to discuss political, trade and cultural relations with South Asians.
 - C. Delegation includes:

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- N. A. Mikhailov Minister of Culture
- A. A. Gromyko First Deputy

 Foreign Minister
- P. M. Kumykin Deputy Foreign

 Trade Minister
- I. A. Serov Head of the Committee

 of State Security (KGB)



D. R. Rasulov - Deputy Minister

Agriculture (native of

Tadzik Republic)

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- Mme. Z. R. Rakhimbabayeva First

 Deputy Minister of Culture

 of the Uzbek Republic
- There are Uzbek and Tadzhik minorities in Afghanistan.

These are only the top members of the delegation. Press has reported the entire group numbers about 100.

- II. Bulganin and Khrushchev are visiting major cities of India (Bombay, Calcutta, Madras) and other show places.
 - A. A good chance they will also visit.

 Bhilai, apparently in anticipation of
 India's early acceptance of Soviet
 steel mill offer.
 - Soviet survey teams already on scene, and housing construction activity has been reported

- leaders are there.
- IV. Soviets more interested in good relations with India than with any other country in area.
- V. Soviet leaders undoubtedly have arrived with rash of offers for all three countries especially economic and technical assistance. Bulganin has already publicly offered Soviet aid in developing Indian industry and atomic energy for peaceful uses.
- be more susceptible to Soviet offers than previously because of particularly acute economic problems they face at present.
 - A. Also the lack of Soviet attempts to attach political strings to economic assistance has convinced many Asians that they can do business with the Soviet Union without succumbing to Communist ideologies.



VII. In any event, Visit of Soviet leaders will enhance Seviet influence in ares.

A. Visit will lend cloak of respectability
to communist policles and local Communist parties and open way for eyen
further contacts between these
countries and Soviet bloc.